

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to content of the electronic book; and
restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes restricting the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of text within the electronic book and permitting no viewing of images within the electronic book.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes restricting access to particular portions of the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes receiving standard ratings relating to the access to the electronic books.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of only selected portions of the electronic book.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting unlimited access to the electronic book.

Claim 10 (original): A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
- receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and
- restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 12 (original): A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display on a viewer, comprising:

- storing a plurality of electronic books for display on a viewer;
- permitting a particular user to assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books; and
- restricting access by other users to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting step includes selectively permitting access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 12, further including requiring the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting a default user to assign the rating.

Claim 17 (original): A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

- storing an electronic book for display on a viewer;
- permitting a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and
- restricting access by other users to the content of the electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A method for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users; and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

Claim 23 (original): A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving information relating to a viewer mode for displaying the electronic book on the viewer; and

restricting access to a content of the electronic book based upon the viewer mode.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 23, wherein:

the receiving step includes receiving information relating to access levels concerning permitted access of potential users to the content and relating to a rating for the electronic book; and

the restricting step includes restricting the access to the content based upon the information and the viewer mode.

Claim 25 (original): An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

a display that displays an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;

a receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to content of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a rating access module that restricts the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a permitting module that permits viewing of text within the electronic book and permits no viewing of images within the electronic book.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a book sections access module that restricts access to particular portions of the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the receiving module includes a module that receives standard ratings relating to the access to the electronic books.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a selected viewing module that permits viewing of only selected portions of the electronic book.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits unlimited access to the electronic book.

Claim 34 (original): An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;
- a receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and
- a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 35 (original): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 36 (original): An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display on a viewer, comprising:

- a memory that stores a plurality of electronic books for display on a viewer;
- a permitting module that permits a particular user to assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books; and
- a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restricting module includes a selective permitting module that selectively permits access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, further including a password module that requires the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a rating module that permits a default user to assign the rating.

Claim 41 (original): An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

- a storing module that stores an electronic book for display on a viewer;
- a permitting module that permits a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and
- a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the content of the electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;
- a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users; and
- a permitting module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a viewing module that permits viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;
- a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

a viewing module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

Claim 47 (original): An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays an electronic book on a viewer;
- a receiving module that receives information relating to a viewer mode for displaying the electronic book on the viewer; and
- a restricting module that restricts access to a content of the electronic book based upon the viewer mode.

Claim 48 (original): The apparatus of claim 47, wherein:

- the receiving module includes an access module that receives information relating to access levels concerning permitted access of potential users to the content and relating to a rating for the electronic book; and
- the restricting module includes a module that restricts the access to the content based upon the information and the viewer mode.

Claim 49 (original): The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the access level information is included in a header of the electronic book.

Claim 50 (original): A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

- displaying a screen on a viewer;
- displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book;
- permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen;
- and
- displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content.

Claim 51 (original): A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

- a screen for display on a viewer;

a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book and a section permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen; and

a restrict section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content.

Claim 52 (original): A method for electronically displaying a screen on a viewer for receiving access levels and a viewer mode relating to display of electronic books on the viewer, comprising:

displaying a screen on a viewer for displaying electronic books;

displaying a name section within the screen for identifying a potential user of the viewer;

displaying an access level section within the screen for permitting entry of an access level for the user, the access level being used for restricting access to the electronic books by the user; and

displaying a viewer mode section within the screen for receiving entry of a viewer mode, the viewer mode being used for determining a type of information used to restrict access to the electronic books.

Claim 53 (original): A screen for use in electronically displaying a screen on a viewer for receiving access levels and a viewer mode relating to display of electronic books on the viewer, comprising:

a screen for display on a viewer for use in displaying electronic books;

a name section within the screen for identifying a potential user of the viewer;

an access level section within the screen for permitting entry of an access level for the user, the access level being used for restricting access to the electronic books by the user; and

a viewer mode section within the screen for receiving entry of a viewer mode, the viewer mode being used for determining a type of information used to restrict access to the electronic books.